

LATIN AMERICAN REPORT



VOLUME III

NO. 9

CARIBBEAN: Archie Carr, turtle hunter.

BRAZIL: A New Look at Rio de Janeiro.

COLOMBIA: Economic renaissance for a country with a future.

HEMISPHERE: What Ever Happened to the "Good Neighbors"?

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LETTERS

This letter from a Cuban citizen reached Latin American Report some time ago. It is unfortunate that due to our editorial schedule we were unable to print it until now, but we feel it is still important. Recall for a moment what tone many U. S. newspapers adopted towards the Cuban executions, then read what this Cuban thought of them. Recount to yourself the many freedoms enjoyed in the United States, as compared with those in any other nation on earth, and then read what this Latin has to say about our penal system. We don't know whose side Mr. Lopez is on, but his letter points up the misunderstanding that lack of inter-hemisphere communication has led to.—Ed.

A LETTER TO OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS

Dear Sir:

You couldn't realize how happy and excited we Cubans have been since the beginning of the year. It was incredible to know that we were free from dictatorship, after seven long years of suffering. We couldn't express in words that we really feel right now. There is only one thing that we are not happy about, and that is the false concept that some countries have of our revolution and mainly of our leader Fidel Castro.

That is why the main purpose of this letter is to make clear that many of the things that you have read—I myself have read them—in the American press are not true. Castro is not a communist. Castro's men are not assassinating Batista's followers. He is only executing those who killed men, women, and children, just for the pleasure or obligation of serving their man: Batista. It is not necessary for me to be very extent in this matter. You must have heard of all the hardships the whole country of Cuba lived through during the seven years of dictatorship. I will not need to tell you of how excited and fearful we went to bed every night, and how hard it was to sleep listening to shots and bombs, and how bitter our awakening next morning when we learned that during the night some neighbors—sometimes close friends of our, if not relatives—had been killed two or three blocks away from home, just for no cause at all. Knowing all this, can you now imagine the terrible conditions under which we lived for seven long years?

We are indeed very much disappointed for what the press in other countries has said about Castro and his men. Mainly that they were killing everybody on Batista's side. Why condemn Cuban executions when we have never had death penalty and you have had it for such a long time? Can't you realize that some of those being executed murdered up to 30, 50, and even 100 defenseless, innocent persons? Imagine one single man killing 100 persons just to satisfy dictator Batista . . . Wouldn't it be justice to execute them and free our country of such menaces? If it is not, or I would rather say, if you Americans don't think it right to execute these beasts: Why do your tribunals sentence a man to death penalty for having killed just one person? Why did they once send a negro man to the electric chair just because he stole \$1.75? This is nothing of my invention, I SWEAR I READ IT MYSELF in an American newspaper some time ago. If this was true, then why criticize our revolution?

I trust that you will understand what our feelings are and that you will help us in whatever way possible: One way of helping us is not letting discredit take place in the American opinion. You know we love you, and your country, and we expect that you will love us that much too. We have been more than neighbors friends for a long time, and as we have spent so much time together that we have come to know and understand each other.

In these moments, more than friends to us you are citizens of a country from which we want to deserve respect and goodwill. What your opinion may be about us could either hurt or please us, and what our opinion may be about you could hurt or please you, too.

We are sure you wouldn't want to hurt us. Then, would you give us a hand? LET EVERYONE IN YOUR COUNTRY KNOW THE TRUTH.

Thanks a lot my friend. We will be grateful for ever.

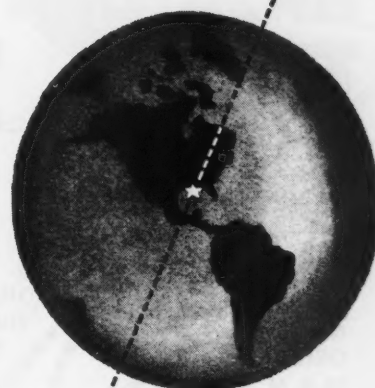
Sincerely,
FRANT LOPEZ
"A CUBAN CITIZEN"

Far Away Places

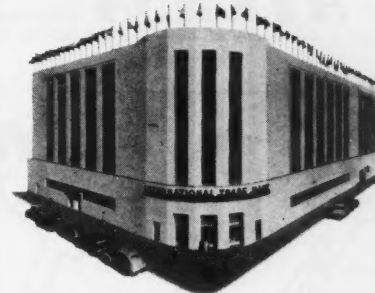
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ple copies of the "Latin American Report."

Inform me also the address of your distributor for Indonesia.

Looking forward to your sending and thanking you in advance.

Gouy Tjhoen Tiat.

Tuirebon, Indonesia.

Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Sir:

May I call upon your office for assistance in the preparation of a thesis for The Graduate School of Business Administration of New York University?

The work, due June 1959, deals with:

"Requirements Of A United States Manufacturer In Establishing A Factory In Buenos Aires, Argentina"

Would it be possible to mail some recent information from your files? I realize this is a tremendous thing to request but I have heard that the Latin American Reports could have great bearing on the success of my work. If you have such material available and can send it I shall remit what price you state for such material and your postage.

The thesis would deal with all phases of establishing a factory in the city of Buenos Aires. Availability of raw materials and markets, transportation, labor supply, law and legislation, import and export controls, patent requirements, etc. The conclusions would try to prove that this city has excellent possibilities for such a venture by an United States manufacturer.

Please accept my sincerest appreciation for any assistance you can render on my behalf.

Kenneth E. Glaze.

New York City.

We suggest you contact:

Foreign Investment Information
Services U. S. Dept. of Commerce.
Customhouse, New York City.—
Ed.

Dear Sir:

Would you kindly send me all information, including subscription charges, on "Latin American Report". As a blind college student about to enter the University of California to study in the Latin American department, I find "Latin American Report" very helpful.

Mr. Lloyd Stevens.

Oakland, Calif.

ALL SOLD OUT

Several months ago we inserted a notice calling attention to the fact that we had various back issues of **LATIN AMERICAN REPORT** which we were willing to sell at a reduced price. The response exceeded our wildest expectations with the result that later we had to alter the notice and delete various issues from those being offered.

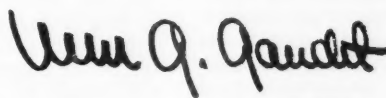
This started us re-checking the issues which were most in demand. And we also checked some of the letters asking for specific issues, since many were based on reference to a story, and not to issue date or number.

One of the first to be depleted was Vol. 1 No. 2 and the story most in the demand was one dealing with the question of "Is Bullfighting Cruel?". This story was originally printed in April of 1956 and was based on the written replies of two experts who took completely opposite views on the subject.

It would be very nice, of course, for us to be able to reprint the entire issue and make it available for those who would like it for their collections. Unfortunately many factors preclude our doing this, but we plan to do the next best thing.

In one of our next editions it is our plan to reprint "Is Bullfighting Cruel?". In the meantime we are checking into the stories most in demand from other issues no longer available, and in time, we will reprint these also.

It makes us very happy to have readers who do not simply receive their magazines and discard them—but instead want to keep them. We do regret, therefore, our inability to be able to fulfill all requests for back issues—even "slightly used ones" as one subscriber wrote and suggested when we told him that Vol. 1 No. 2 was no longer available.



PUBLISHER

Member, Inter American Press Association

THIS MONTH'S COVER: Bogota, capital city of Colombia. Ektachrome courtesy Pan American World Airways.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send old address, exactly as it appears on your magazine label, along with new address, including zone number. Allow at least four weeks to effect change.

LATIN AMERICAN REPORT

*Published monthly to record and
interpret the changing history
of our hemisphere.*

For The Period Ending:

AUGUST 31

1959

Vol. III

No. 9

Contents

ARTICLES

COLOMBIA'S ECONOMIC RENAISSANCE ..	6
RIO DE JANEIRO	11
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE "GOOD NEIGHBORS"?	16
ARCHIE CARR, TURTLE HUNTER	18

FEATURES

Letters	1
Up To Date	4
Trade Notes	22
Books in Review	24

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LATIN AMERICAN REPORT is published monthly by Latin American Reports, Inc., International Trade Mart, New Orleans 12, La. Single issue price 50c. Subscription \$5.00 per year. Foreign Rates (boat mail) \$6.00. President, William G. Gaudet; Vice President, Sidney M. Toca; Secretary-Treasurer, Pauline Lucas Gaudet; Directors: Dr. Alton Ochsner, Sidney M. Toca, William G. Gaudet, Pauline Lucas Gaudet, Lee Emery, Jr., Macrino Trelles, Warren A. Forstall. Second Class Mail Privilege authorized at New Orleans, Louisiana.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS ISSUE: 6-9, Govt. of Colombia, UPI; 11-14 PAA, Govt. of Brazil; 18-21, Archie Carr.

UP TO D

A Monthly Summation of I

PARAGUAY . . .

Gen. Alfredo Stroessner's government, last of the old line dictatorships in South America, is becoming a focal point of revolutionary activity. Small bands of rebels roam the mountains, and unrest amongst the citizenry is supposedly growing. Unfortunately for would-be Paraguayan revolutionaries, however, experts believe they stand little chance of overthrowing strong man Stroessner. For one thing his army is too well trained and equipped, and as tough, man for man, as any rebel band. The second point concerns supplies. Rebels operating in land locked Paraguay must be supplied either by long range airlift or by caravan over alien soil. This has made it almost impossible for anti-Stroessner groups to equip or maintain rebel contingents of any size. If Stroessner is to be overthrown, the move will probably come from inside his own army. The point is, will another dictator take his place?

PANAMA . . .

Agitators in this divided nation are calling for an invasion of the Panama Canal on November 3rd, anniversary day of Panama's independence. Former government officials have been exhorting the people to occupy the Canal Zone "symbolically and effectively", and their words have been having an ever-increasing effect on the relatively poor people of Panama. It is believed that unless some drastic step is taken very soon, the "march on the Canal" may very well take place, but not as an invasion. Experts feel that this may be a move to provoke an international incident which would give Panama a wedge in its battle to take over the Canal. If such a move does take place in November, it will be an ironic sweep of the clock. Panama might never have become an independent nation had it not been for the Canal and the United States.

VENEZUELA . . .

Maracaibo, until now noted only for its production of oil, has come up with a 50 man symphony orchestra. This is not unusual for Latin America, where the cultural and musical

heritage is very strong. In Caracas, Venezuela's capital, last month's music included symphonic recitals by the Venezuelan Symphony Orchestra and concerts by leading Latin violinists and pianists. The concerts are offered free every Sunday morning under the auspices of the cultural division of the Ministry of Education.

GREAT BRITIAN . . .

What's left of the empire in Latin America is due for a concerted labor drive this fall, according to the Inter American Labor Bulletin. At the present time labor leaders are planning moves in Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, British Antilles and other islands. One of their demands: reduce the work week to 48 hours. Another: grant recognition to legitimate unions. It is felt that the goals of the unions will be opposed by old line Britons who make up an influential part of the population in the colonies and that violence may break out.

BOLIVIA . . .

The government of this already shaky nation is considerably upset over the growing U. S. concern regarding foreign aid, especially foreign aid to Bolivia. Recent hearings before the House Appropriations Committee reveal that 1) official relations between the United States and Bolivia are deteriorating; 2) Special assistance funds sent to La Paz have apparently not helped the country's economy; 3) despite \$119,000,000 in aid during fiscal 1959 the Bolivian economy has "not improved as much as had been hoped"; 4) the aid program in Bolivia is still being ineptly managed; 5) the United States is apparently committed to train some 6,000 Bolivian troops in "riot-control technique". In spite of all this, an enlargement of the aid program has been requested for next year. Whether or not it will pass is open to question, however.

NICARAGUA . . .

A report that passed almost unnoticed this month shows that the Organization of American States can

ATE...

on of Latin American News, Features and Events

be an efficient fact finder when it is given the opportunity to operate freely. On June second the Nicaraguan government requested that the OAS look into the armed "invasions" the country was undergoing at that time. By July the investigators knew the number of men involved, where they had come from and how, where they had gone and what they had done. Its report even noted the nationalities of the troops involved, most of them being Nicaraguans. To top it off, the OAS warned Nicaragua that a force of 70 men had been formed in Honduras for possible invasion. The Honduran government, it is reported, has since taken steps to assure its neutrality in what it regards as an internal Nicaraguan affair.

CUBA...

Whatever chances the communists may have of winning the Castro government to its way of thinking are being inadvertently encouraged by recent actions in the United States, according to observers in Havana. Consistent U. S. opposition to Castro's actions and goals is forcing him closer and closer to the side of communists and extreme left wing radicals who would like nothing better than to have Castro pushed into their camp by the "imperialistic" U. S. It is felt that though Fidel himself is not a communist there can be no doubt that many of those in his government are either communist sympathizers or ambitious men who would not balk at joining forces with the reds if such an alliance would help them to achieve a more powerful voice in the Cuban government.

The communists themselves, well trained to utilize international squabbles to advance their own cause, are being kept very busy these days trying to make the most of such U. S. mistakes as the recent Senate testimony of Major Diaz, ex-chief of the Cuban Air Force. Exactly why Diaz chose to say what he did is not yet clear, and may never be, but there can be no doubt that he played his cards in such a way as to bring about the most rabid anti-United States feeling to date in this country. Most

Cubans feel that the U. S. Senate had no right to take testimony about the internal affairs of another country. Such actions are endangering whatever little amity still exists between Cubans and U. S. corporations operating in Cuba, thus endangering both U. S. capital investment and the Cuban economy.

MEXICO...

For over twenty years now, Latin America has apparently forgotten that Spanish did not originate among the Aztecs. Spain, home of this continent's heritage, has met with constant rebuffs at the hands of its former possessions. The latest occurred in Mexico City when a would-be envoy from Spain, reportedly in Mexico to re-establish diplomatic relations between the two nations, was told by Mexico's Foreign Minister that he was merely a visitor, and had no special diplomatic status. In circles where protocol is important, this was tantamount to an insult. The Spaniard cancelled his plans for a reception and was last seen heading east, away from Latin America.

ARGENTINA...

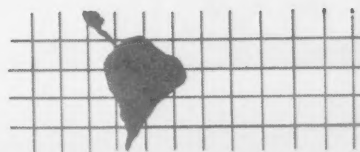
The latest meeting of the "21", the special OAC committee to promote inter-hemispheric economic cooperation, was recently completed in Buenos Aires, this nation's capital. Results of the meeting were codified into three resolutions aimed at stimulating investment in the Americas. Resolution number one called on Latin nations to actively seek out private investors. Number two recommended that the richer nations of the hemisphere re-assess their policies regarding such things as taxation of incomes made abroad, so as to encourage such investment on the part of their citizens. Finally, the committee suggested that the OAS undertake an immediate public relations program to disseminate information regarding all aspects of foreign investment in Latin American nations. Other resolutions called for promotion of Latin American exports, a study of international transport problems and establishment of a Pan American Information Office in the United States.

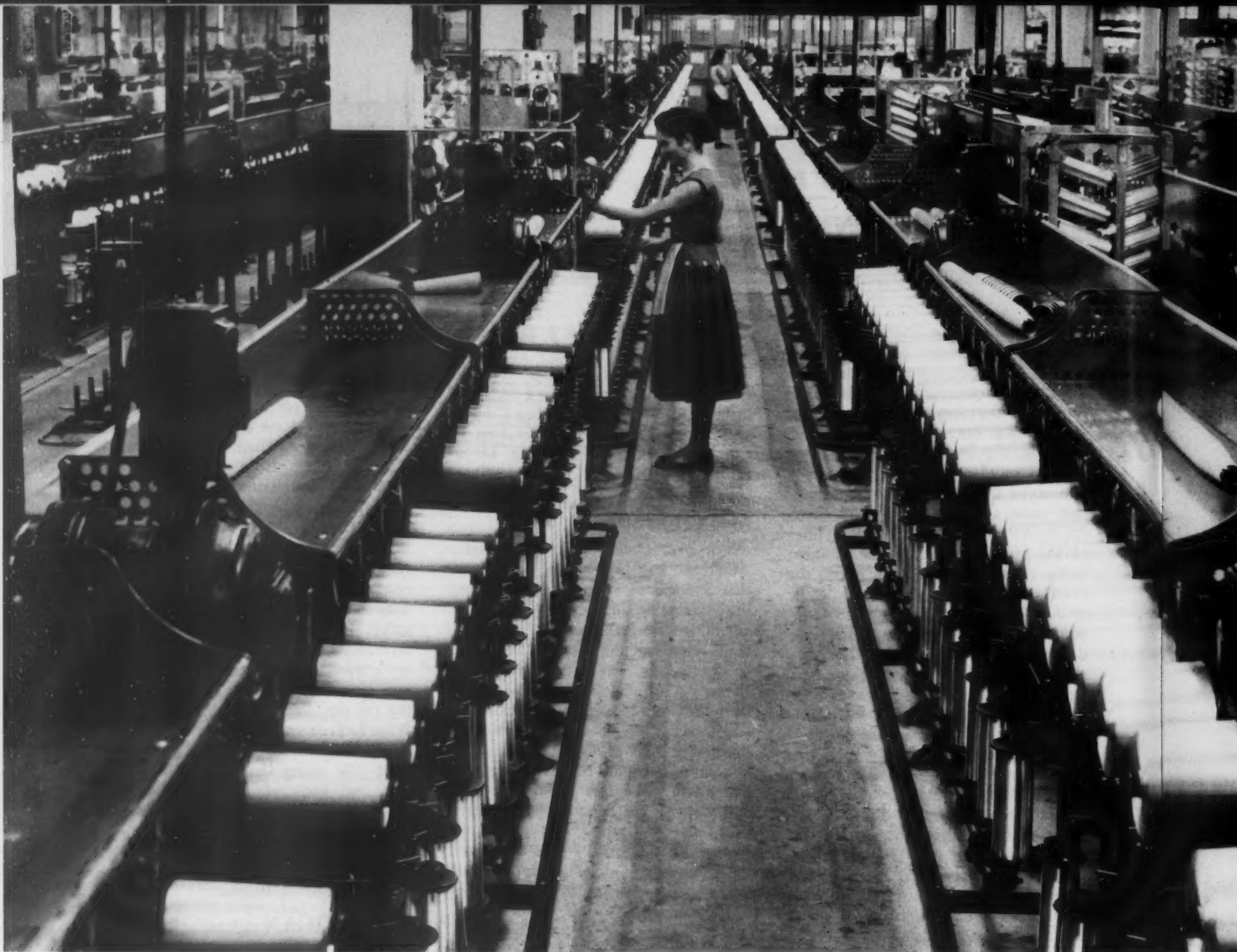
NEW YORK CITY...

A few years back this city's Sixth Avenue was re-named "Avenue of the Americas". Ever since then all New Yorkers have gone right on calling it Sixth Avenue. Their reasons were obvious. Aside from the good will gesture of the name, Sixth Avenue was about as international as any other street in New York, and perhaps even less so than some. Its buildings in the main part of the city could not compare in beauty or size with those on Fifth Avenue, one block away. It was called, and somewhat justifiably, "Fifth Avenue's back alley". Now all this seems to be changing. New skyscrapers are at last rising on the Avenue of the Americas. What's even more important from the inter-American point of view, each light pole along the street will soon bear the coat of arms of the 22 nations of the western hemisphere. In these times the gesture may well take on a significance out of the ordinary. U. S.-Latin relations are in need of a morale booster.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC...

According to sources in touch with rebel leaders in this country, the chief aim of the "overthrow Trujillo" movement is gradually becoming the generalissimo's huge fortune and land holdings. We don't know how large these holdings are, but the rebels are claiming they can launch an entirely new era of agrarian reform just by breaking up Trujillo's lands. Rebel activity in the Dominican Republic is due to become much more dangerous in the very near future. The four major revolutionary movements are on the verge of uniting for the common good. If they can successfully do so, and coordinate their leadership as well, Trujillo will be in for very big trouble, on an active basis.



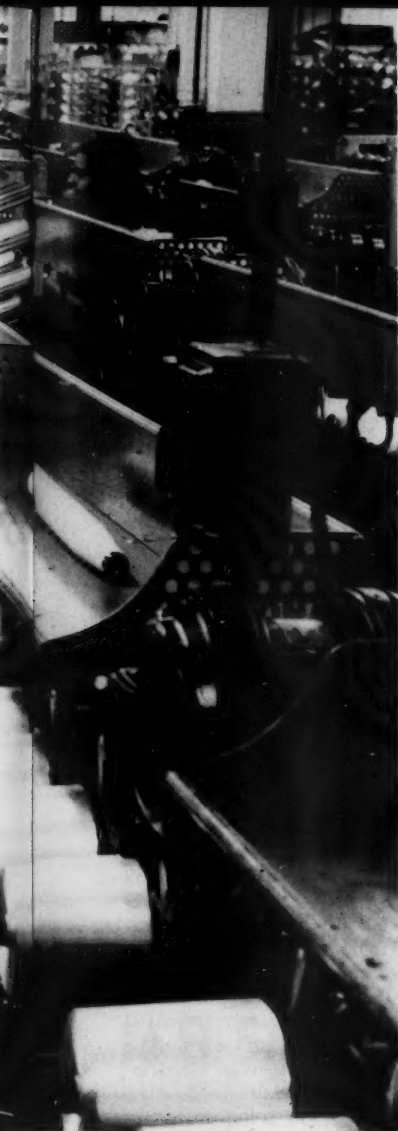


Celanese plant. Industrialization is on the way.

COLOMBIA'S ROAD TO RECOVERY

Alberto Lleras Camargo, re-builder of Colombia.





In May of 1957, General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla, 'self appointed dictator of Colombia's 13,500,000 people, was overthrown by a coalition of the democratic elements in the nation's political parties. He had ruled the country since 1953, first by virtue of a coup d'etat, then via the "election" of a hastily called constitutional assembly. When he left office, it was discovered, as is usually the case with dictatorial governments, that the nation's affairs were in a gigantic mess, and that disaster faced the national economy.

Colombia was basically a one-crop agricultural nation at that time. Virtually its entire trade income was dependent on the sale of one commodity, coffee. And the coffee market had been falling constantly since 1954. Therefore, it came as quite a shock to many North Americans, including those who are supposedly knowledgeable on Latin American affairs, to see this small nation doggedly set out to right Rojas' economic wrongs. Most of these people rightly assumed that the cause was a hopeless one. Fortunately for their nation, the Colombians didn't. For, according to the latest reports, they have succeeded in doing the impossible.

Most of it was due to the efforts of one man, Dr. Alberto Lleras Camargo, present President of Colombia. It was he who welded the political parties of the nation into a coalition against the dictator; it was he who organized the junta that took over when Rojas was overthrown; finally, it was his wisdom which hauled Colombia out of its economic

tailspin. The first move was to inform the people of what had been going on in their nation for the past four years. This step, it was felt, would better enable them to understand what the new government was doing, and why. Press censorship was removed, political freedom was granted to legitimate parties, and Colombian citizens suddenly found that they no longer had anything to fear if they voiced an opinion that didn't agree with the government's.

The second move involved the cleaning up of the government's own house. The ministries, were entirely re-organized. For the first time in the nation's history, a career civil service was created for government employees. One of the first bills submitted to the Colombian Congress by the Lleras government called for complete overhaul of the public administration.

When all this was done, and the smoke had settled, the real work began. President Lleras got up and told the 13 million Colombian people that their nation was living way beyond its means, that it was in serious debt, and that everyone would have to tighten his belt until the country's economy was straightened out. The value of the peso, he declared, had fallen over 50% in a little over a year, the cost of living had risen a fantastic 14% in just over seven months, and the nation had developed a truly remarkable unfavorable balance of trade. All this was going to stop.

To restore the value of the peso, the Colombian government arranged



Coffee plantation. The crop rose 33%.



Sorting coffee on small farm. It is still the biggest money maker.

for three international loans, totaling \$370,000,000, to pay off its backlog of commercial debts. These back bills had mounted to a \$460,000,000 total; \$243,000,000 of the amount was paid off within eight months. The nation then entered into a one year \$25,000,000 standing arrangement with the International Monetary Fund to support its currency on the free market. By the end of 1958, U. S. visitors to Colombia were able to announce that the nation's economic recovery was "amazing". Inflation had been slowed to a one percent per month rise.

The Colombian people were hardest hit by President Lleras' economic rehabilitation plan, but thanks to his foresightedness in telling them what he was up to and why, they have supported his almost every move. In the last month of Rojas' regime Colombia's imports had hit an all-time high of \$53,000,000; Lleras' Finance Minister, Dr. Antonio Alvarez Restrepo, cut them to \$26,000,000 per month. This meant that only the barest essentials, such as basic industrial machinery, transportation equipment and agricultural machinery could be imported.

Many so-called luxury goods, which North Americans have come to think of as essentials, were banned entirely. A partial list included: refrigerators, washing machines, sporting goods, air conditioners and new automobiles. The government was so determined to be absolutely impartial about this that it wouldn't even allow a few cars to be brought in for demonstration at a trade fair.

While all this was going on, world coffee prices kept falling, through no fault of Colombia. But up until 1958, coffee had accounted for 90% of the nation's commerce, and a one cent drop in price on the New York coffee exchange meant a loss of \$6,500,000 to the nation's foreign exchange coffers. From a 1954 high of 94 cents a pound, the price plummeted to a 44 cent low in June of 1959. This meant that every one of Colombia's thousands of small coffee farmers were losing more money than they could possibly afford to.

To alleviate this situation, President Lleras decided that the thing to do was re-orient the nation's economy, but in small doses. He encouraged increases in the nation's other agricultural crops. This move, it was felt, would accomplish two things: the farmers would have a diversity of products to sell, and Colombia would not have to import so much food; the land could begin to feed its own people. In one year wheat production went up 18%, barley 25%

cotton 33%, and soya 100%. Banana exports rose \$2,000,000. Colombian officials estimate that this year their nation will be able to reduce the import of foodstuffs by some \$17,000,000. Coffee now accounts for only 76% of the nation's foreign trade. Another move made towards economic diversification in Colombia has been a small, but perceptible, increase in the nation's industrial progress. This vastly important segment of Colombia's development potential had come to a standstill during the Rojas regime, but with the installation of the Lleras government, a renewed interest on the part of foreign investors has been noted. The W. R. Grace Corporation, long a leader in Latin industrialization, has taken concrete note of this fact; the company is building a 20,000 ton bagasse pulp and paper mill in Colombia, one of its largest Latin projects to date.

As a result of all this dedicated effort, Colombia showed a favorable trade balance of \$86,000,000 in 1958, her best performance in the past twenty years. Her dollar and gold reserves have mounted over the \$120,000,000 mark, and the Central Bank shows reserves of over \$200,000,000 (in pesos). In fact, the economy has shown such a definite upswing that the government has recently announced that import quotas are being raised to around \$30,000,000 per month.

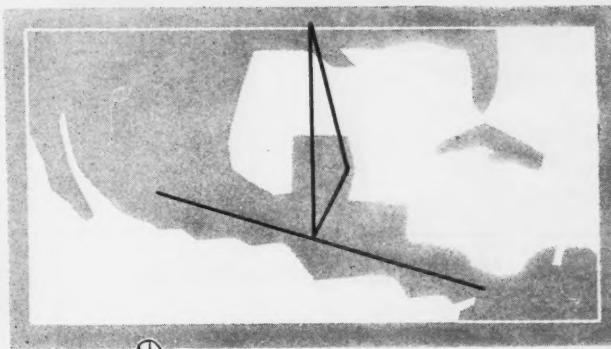
This does not mean a television set in every living room, nor a refrigerator in every kitchen. What it does mean is that Colombia's economy, while still not exactly booming, is working towards a stabilized level which will allow that nation to grow without going into bankruptcy or falling prey to internal disruption and political turmoil. ●

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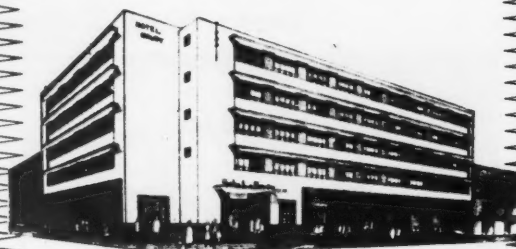
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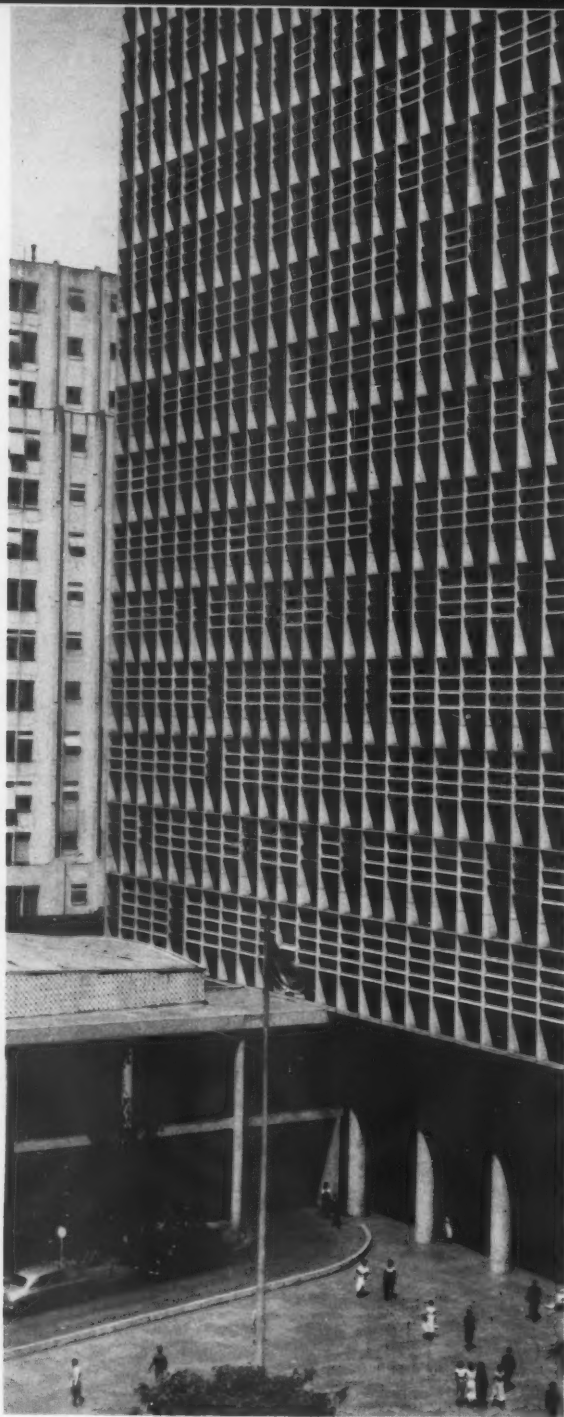
IN LIMA'S BUSINESS CENTER

Attractively decorated rooms and
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A black and white photograph of a crowded beach in Rio de Janeiro. In the background, a hillside is covered with numerous buildings of varying sizes. The middle ground is filled with a large number of people on the sand and in the shallow water. In the foreground, several people are silhouetted against the bright beach and water. The word "Rio!" is superimposed in large, bold, white letters with a thick black outline across the center of the image.

Rio!



The Ministry of Education building is merely an example of Rio's changing appearance.

Rio!

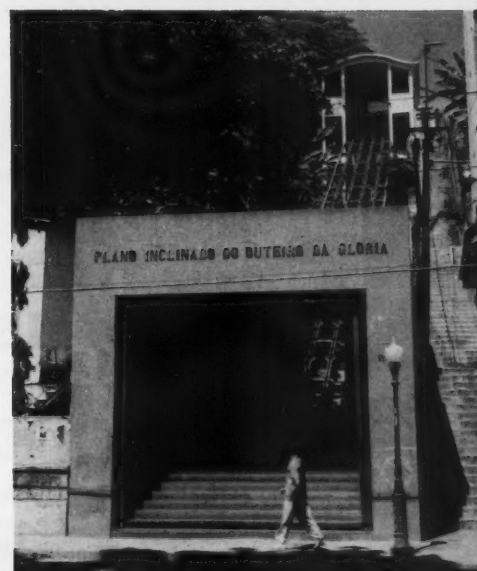
People who know almost nothing else about Latin America can usually be counted on to identify the above word. It stands for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's oceanside metropolis, probably the only city in the world with which people have fallen in love from the air. In fact, of all the vistas in Latin America, probably none is quite as well known as Rio's sweeping shoreline, shared almost equally by skyscrapers and mountains, as seen from above. Latin American Report has therefore taken this opportunity to ignore aerial skylines, Sugar Loaf mountain and even the Copacabana. Herewith are other facets of Rio's many sided personality, some old and some new.



The famous mosaic sidewalks, hand set.



The Moorish influence is strong in Rio's older architecture.



Cable Car to church. The tramway is located on Gloria Hill in Rio, takes parishioners up to Our Lady of Gloria church atop the steep stairway.



Midtown section. Note the sidewalks, tree-line plaza and the jay-walking pedestrians.

ECUADOR



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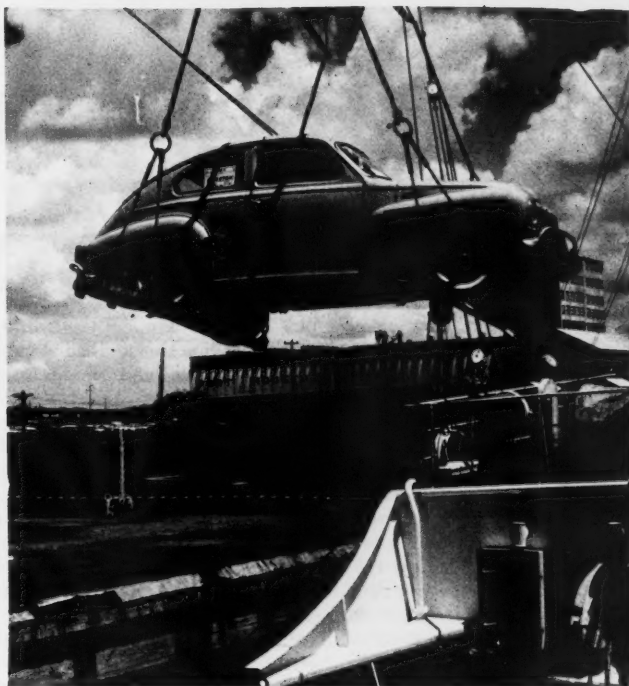


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WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GOOD NEIGHBO


This article originally appeared as an editorial in Fortune magazine, the United States' Boswell of business. Fortune, whether it likes it or not, has gained the reputation of standing for all that is good, and bad, about the great American pursuit of net profits. For that reason we feel that Fortune's thoughts on Inter-American relations are more than slightly significant. They may not reflect the thoughts of the majority of U. S. businessmen and financiers, but they will be read, and acted upon, by most of the influential and important ones. What is most important, however, is that they are true.—Ed.

In Haiti last month, Foreign Minister Louis Mars complained of feeling like a passenger on a ship who knows there is dirty weather about, but who cannot make out what is going on over the horizon. This sentiment must accurately reflect the feelings of many U. S. businessmen about Latin America these days. We have been witnessing in Cuba a confiscation of property unequaled since the Mexican oil seizures of 1938. There have been incipient revolts and street fighting in Nicaragua, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Uruguay. Peru is in exchange difficulties and Brazil continues to pursue inflationary policies that are self-defeating and that have led to an open break with the officials of the International Monetary Fund.

It is easy to conclude from all this that U. S. policy toward Latin America is a complete failure. Adolf Berle, former Assistant Secretary of State for Latin-American affairs, writing in *The Reporter*, states that "for the first time since the Monroe Doctrine was proclaimed in 1823, the Americas could break in two." This would indeed be a disaster of the first order. Of the some \$25 billion of direct investment that U. S. business has

made around the world, some \$8.8 billion is invested south of the Rio Grande and in the islands of the Caribbean. About 30 per cent of all U. S. imports come from this area and about 25 per cent of our exports go there. The U. S. is dependent on Venezuelan oil, Peruvian and Chilean copper, and Brazilian coffee. And militarily, no less than economically, the interests of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres are interlocking.

In view of these stakes, present concern over Latin America is fully justified. Fortunately, however, U. S. policy is not quite as inept as some critics make out. Latin America is a big and enormously diverse area that includes some twenty different countries and 183 million people. Some are doing well. In others—Ecuador, Chile, and Colombia, for instance—progress is being made to balance budgets and to adopt sensible trade and investment policies. U. S. business this year will confidently put an estimated \$400 million into Latin-American mines and factories, and U. S. imports and exports will be considerably higher than they were in 1958. This is no time to lose faith in American solidarity. But it is time to sort out and face up to the real dangers.

"The most sacred right" 

The first and obvious danger lies in Cuba, which Fidel Castro in a few brief months has managed to reduce to a state of chaos where literally anything can happen. When Batista fell, there was considerable rejoicing that another dictator had toppled. But Castro's land-reform program has turned out to be a deadly serious threat to property, security, and peace. It is a body blow to big foreign companies like Atlántica del Golfo, which owns some 500,000 acres in

Cuba, to the Rionda group, Cuban-American Sugar, and United Fruit. Castro's land reform must also adversely affect the whole Cuban economy, which is already plagued with massive unemployment. And it is not only the big foreign companies that will suffer. At a recent meeting of tobacco growers, Castro's policies were criticized as "an open attack on the most sacred right of civilized society," and a small landholder stated: "I will continue to defend my land as long as I have breath, because I obtained it with the sweat of my brow and it is the only thing I have to leave to my children." These are gallant words indicating how far Castro has betrayed the real interests of his own people.

But it is not only the property confiscation in Cuba that is of concern to businessmen. Equally serious is the fact that Latin America has been increasingly subject to Communist infiltration. Castro himself may not be a Communist, but he is surrounded by Communists, and there is no doubt that the Kremlin is underwriting a strong and flexible strategy to subvert other nations. In Guatemala three years ago, Communists came within an ace of taking over the government. In Colombia, Communists maintain a small enclave around the town of Viota and have made some progress at penetrating the country's unions. In Venezuela, Communists technically control only about 3 per cent of the labor movement, but their influence spreads much wider and is felt in the universities. In Argentina, Communists moved in on the wreckage left by Perón and are today strongly entrenched in nineteen major unions, among these the building-trades and the lumber and chemical unions; and in Uruguay the Communists have a powerful headquarters that

BORS ?

speaks with its own radio station. In Brazil the party has been banned since 1957, but Communists exert decisive influence in about 30 per cent of Brazil's 1,347 union locals.

For those who help themselves ■

The threat to Latin-American stability, however, is not just Communism. It is also the fact that so many Latin-American nations are caught up in a complex of social and economic forces — forces pushing them into unsound economic policies that play into the hands of agitators of all kinds and impoverish their own peoples. Over three-quarters of Latin America's population still live on the land, and agriculture remains this great southern community's basic asset. Yet few countries have paid sufficient attention to increasing their agricultural output, which has, in fact, barely kept pace with growing populations. Instead, there has been forced-draft industrialization, which all too often has led to credit inflation, unbalanced budgets, and soaring prices. Inflation creates a strong demand for imports, penalizes exports, and leads on inevitably to exchange controls and balance-of-payments difficulties. Brazil is the supreme example of a potentially rich country that has been ruining itself by way of the printing press. Even Peru, which made enormous economic progress under the Odría regime, has been getting into trouble.

Yet in financial matters the U. S. can and should exert constructive influence, and here there have been signs of change. In Chile and Colombia the printing presses have been slowed. In Argentina it is to be hoped that Dr. Frondizi and the military can reconcile their differences and that the government will continue its austerity program. The U. S. has rightly emphasized that sound money

is the key to progress. It is also right in turning down Brazil's demand for further loans until Brazil elects to curb its internal spending. It is sometimes said that this country has channeled all of its aid to Europe and to the Far East and forgotten about its southern neighbors. The charge does not stand up on analysis, and in any case misses the point. The nations of Latin America do not need another Marshall plan. What they do need is adequate credit if they meet certain minimum conditions of fiscal prudence. The proposed \$1-billion Inter-American Development Bank may help enlarge credit facilities. But it will succeed only as it adheres to the general philosophy of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and helps those who have begun to help themselves.

The enduring partnership ■

Once this philosophy is accepted, new horizons will open up. Governments can lay down the ground rules of economic advance. But the main engines of progress are trade, foreign investment, and above all free economic activity within the Latin-American nations themselves. In the matter of trade, the U. S. has needlessly offended Peru and Venezuela by its restrictive policies regarding copper and oil. Brazil has needlessly hurt itself by its ill-fated price-propping schemes on coffee (copied, it must be said, directly from the U. S. farm policy). Where trade and investment have been allowed to run free, they have forged a proud record, and there are plenty of opportunities left. Increasingly, U. S. enterprises have met nationalist propaganda by offering partnerships. Bethlehem Steel, for instance, accepted a 49 per cent minority interest in Brazil's \$52-million Amapá manganese operation. Willys-Overland do Brasil, which may

outproduce Willys in the U. S., financed a large part of its investment by selling shares to Brazilians and now has some 40,000 local stockholders. Brazilian Traction is now selling \$12 million worth of stock in Brazil, thereby acquiring both new capital and allies. Combinations of this kind may not always be practical, but where they are, they are a potent means of meeting the false charge of "foreign exploitation."

Perhaps the largest truth that needs emphasis is that there is an essential link between so-called underdeveloped nations and developed ones. As an eminent lawyer of Mexico, Gustavo R. Velasco, has said: "An underdeveloped country is a poor country considered to have a possibility of becoming less poor . . . underdeveloped countries are not subject to a set of economic principles different from those to which the advanced countries are subject." In other words, the principles of the free market, of sound money, of private property and respect for law, are general propositions that can hold good everywhere. Recently Charles S. Rhyne, former president of the American Bar Association, made much the same point when he emphasized that the rule of law is the most precious inheritance of the Western world, and specifically proposed setting up a regional Court of Justice for the Americas. Such a court would not have been able to stop the expropriation of property in Cuba. But it would serve as a symbol that the U. S. and its Latin-American neighbors stands for the same rules of judicial process and common decency. It is by emphasizing and implementing this common bond of liberty under law, no less than by increasing commerce and investment, that the Americas will be held together. ●

ARCHIE CARR



Archie Carr, turtle detective.

On a moonless night in June 1953, the fine black sands of remote Tortuguero Beach on the east coast of Costa Rica crunched softly under the feet of a man moving along a few yards above high water. Suddenly a resonant thump froze the beachwalker in his tracks.

Moving forward again, he could soon make out on the dark sand an even darker heart-shaped bulk well over a yard long. Sweeping his flashlight beam down, Archie Carr, biologist, nature-lover and knight-errant champion of the most valuable reptile on earth, met the ancient basilisk gaze of a nesting green sea turtle.

The normally elusive creature could not stop her laying to flee. Carr quickly recorded her labor with his flash camera and got out tools to tag her for later tracing. Here before his eyes, as each leathery egg fell into the sand pit to the accompaniment of a resounding stroke of powerful

hind flippers against glistening shell, began one of the greatest mysteries of nature and the sea.

This riddle was the life-cycle of the huge sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, which contributed as much to the settling of the Caribbean as the buffalo did later to the opening of the American West. For over three centuries after Columbus landed on Hispaniola whole fleets were provisioned with the succulent meat of this herbivorous shellback that will live for weeks trussed up in a ship's hold.

TASTY. The bottom-grazing amphibian gets its name from the tint of its vitamin-rich fat. It can dress out as much meat as a young steer and nearly every part inside the shell can make a tasty, nourishing dish . . . not to mention the gourmet's chief delight, green turtle soup. But civilization's advance had decimated the great undersea herds that had once provided—and could again—

an almost inexhaustible food supply.

As a young biologist specializing in reptiles, Archie Carr had discovered two things about the threatened species. First, the netting or harpooning of adults at the feeding grounds was not to blame for their rapid disappearance; it was rather "turtle-turning" or the taking of females when they came out on sand beaches to lay their eggs. To save the turtle, the secret nesting places must be protected.

Then Carr collided with the second hard fact, one that was to hound him for a quarter of a century. No one knew when or where the small surviving herds nested.

The youthful American biologist took up the challenge. Slowly through the years—first on his own and later with the help of modest foundation grants—by schooner and dugout, by jeep and on foot, Archie Carr explored the turtle's broad domain.

THE HUNTERS. In a small group of islands where people rarely go, the Caymans in the center of the Caribbean, he found at last the only remaining sizeable turtle fishing fleet. He discovered that they ply their seasonal trade around even less-known banks off Nicaragua where the giant greens fatten themselves up on lush underwater pastures of turtle grass and paintbrush seaweed.

Septuagenarian captains on the Caymans told wondrous tales of how live greens taken to Kingston and Key West and penned there were re-



Digging up turtle eggs for the experimental hatchery.

TURTLE HUNTER

leased when hurricanes destroyed the turtle-runs, how the branded shell-backs returned to their former feeding ground and were retaken near the same undersea rock towers where they had been netted the first time. And in late May or early June, Carr was told, the whole herd gathered as if by prearrangement and vanished to unknown nesting beaches in the south.

By 1955 Carr established that there were three main beaches to which they went. One was the *Isla de Mujeres* off Yucatan, the second Aves Island in the eastern Caribbean, and the third and most important the black sands of Tortuguero, or Turtle Bogue, in eastern Costa Rica. In 1956 Carr published a popular book, "The Windward Road," in which he told of the turtle's plight.

By this time, however, Carr knew that the giant greens were so near to extinction that even patrolling their nesting places would not entirely reverse their crawl toward doom. A plan for restocking had to be developed. This would take something like a miracle.

Late in 1957 the near-miracle happened on far away Madison Avenue. Joshua B. Powers, New York advertising representative of Latin American newspapers, chanced on a copy of "The Windward Road." He was struck by pages describing the exploding population of the Caribbean and became fired with the belief that restoring the green turtle herds could provide an additional cheap and abundant source of protein food. Into the campaign Powers threw a gourmet's appreciation, a publicist's skill and a humanitarian's enthusiasm. He sent letters flying to influential friends around the hemisphere, with a copy of Carr's book and a plea "to save the Green Turtle from passing the way of the Wood Pigeon, and to cooperate with the friendly peoples



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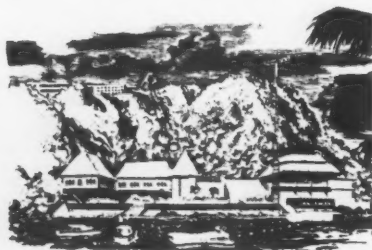
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of the Caribbean in keeping the good things they have and helping them find more."

THE BROTHERHOOD. The replies to his letter were all he had hoped for. In March Powers wrote to Carr, "You will be surprised to learn that you are the spiritual head of the Brotherhood of the Green Turtle." He had endowed the astonished scientist not only with an international band of helpers but also with a playfully heroic title—"Grand Admiral of the Fleet." New members of the Brotherhood were dubbed "Patrolmen of the Beaches." Latin American newspapers began to publicize the project.

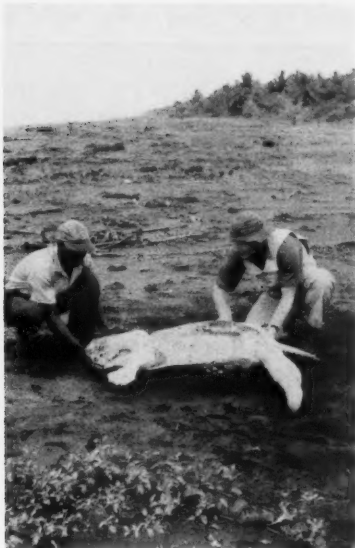
Then Powers and Carr got to work

on such matters as locating a sea-level turtle crawl where broods of young greens for restocking could be carried through the perils of babyhood—notably seabirds and egg-hunting humans. Carr had certified that if the hatchlings could be protected through their first few months of life, sixty or seventy out of a hundred would survive, instead of one or two.

This May, at a luncheon in New York City, Powers announced that the Brotherhood was ready to incorporate itself as the Caribbean Conservation Association and to undertake a five-year program to cost a modest \$10,000 a year. Sr. Jorge Borbón, Minister of Agriculture of



Loading turtles for shipment to New York



Doctor Carr measuring female turtle for biological record.

Costa Rica, had granted the group four miles of the beach at Tortuguero. There 10,000 baby turtles would be hatched and protected during the first year and distributed to beaches throughout the Caribbean area like day-old chicks. "Patrolmen" in major Caribbean countries would apply pressure for the protection of *Chelonia*. Later perhaps other projects, equally vital to a fast-growing Middle America, would be undertaken.

Archie Carr and the many friends he has made around this hemisphere are already assured that the voice of the turtle, if that turtle be green, will continue to be heard in he land. ●

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CHILE . . .

Armco Steel Company of the United States and Compania Electro Metalurgica of Santiago have just announced joint founding of a Chilean corporation to produce steel grinding equipment for use in Chilean copper mines. The plant will be built on a ten acre site next door to the Compania de Acero del Pacifico integrated steel plant, which will provide the raw materiel for Armco Chile, S. A.

COFFEE . . .

The world coffee production problem may soon be solved. Latin American nations have been able to reach common ground in recent talks, and have most recently agreed to a Mexican proposed export restriction plan. The plan calls for all of the Latin American coffee producing nations to adopt a maximum export quota fixed at 90% of their best calendar year within the past decade. Central American countries, expecting their best year to come in 1960, have been restricted to a quota of 88%. This kind of co-operation has already pro-

TRADE NOTES

duced heartening results in Latin countries, and it is to be hoped that up coming talks with African coffee producers will lead to successful inter-continental control of most of the world's coffee production.

BRAZIL . . .

Brazil, a country which has spent some time recently screaming bitterly at the International Monetary Fund, has just released some current fiscal figures which seem to demonstrate that it can ill afford to offend any money lending agency. Brazil's net reserves are now \$90,000,000 in the red, her global trade deficit may reach \$300,000,000 by the end of the year, a trade deficit of \$30,700,000 was recorded in the first quarter of 1959, and imports climbed 28% in value over exports the first five months of the year.

The almost open U.S.-Brazilian warfare that recently broke out over terms under which this nation would be allowed to borrow money from the International Monetary Fund seems to have subsided for the present. The conflict arose when Brazil publicly resented the Fund's request that it initiate certain monetary disciplines in order to be eligible for credit. All nations are required to conform to the same standards, but Brazil objected. President Kubitschek vocally resisted any notion that Brazil would bow down to the requirements of the International Monetary Fund. Other officials went around saying that if the U. S. did not lend Brazil the money, then the Soviet Union

most certainly would. For a while it looked pretty bad. But now, with new ambassadors from both countrys recently installed in their respective embassys, the situation is beginning to improve. Brazil's envoy is Walter Moreira Sales, a notably discreet financier and banker. The United States has dispatched to Brazil John Moors Cabot, career diplomat with a lot of international knowhow. Though both men are only just arrived in office, their soothing and knowledgeable influence on the course of international affairs is already beginning to be felt in both capitals.

CUBA . . .

Quite a few foreign companies seem to be either pretty brave or

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remarkably foolhardy. In spite of the unsettled conditions currently prevailing in Cuba, General Electric has announced plans for a light bulb plant, American and Foreign Power wants to build another generator, the Anglo-Cuban Development Agency is said to be ready to invest some \$300,000,-000 in Cuba within the next decade, and the Canadian National Steamship fleet is being sold to the nation for \$2,800,000. Actually, Fidel Castro's government is probably due for a long incumbency, provided Fidel himself can stay alive and in office.

ARGENTINA . . .

An Argentine firm, Panda, S. A., has recently been formed to establish a chain of supermarkets in the country, and is seeking U. S. capital investment. Company officials are also anxious for U. S. technical and managerial knowhow. Capital required is \$100,000. Details may be obtained from Ira T. Mitchel, Avda. Santa Fe 3936, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

COLOMBIA . . .

General Electric announces a plan to invest 100,000,000 pesos in a plant in Bogota, designed to produce basic appliances, such as refrigerators and air conditioners. At the same time, Incorsa, a locally owned company with Kelvinator affiliations, announces plans to make washing machines and freezers. All this activity seems to stem from Colombia's rapidly improving economic picture.

URUGUAY . . .

The International Monetary Fund has announced the completion of the first part of an economic plan for this tiniest of South American nations. The plan calls in part for decentralization of industries, establishment of import restrictions, expansion of foreign credits for public works and very large investments, establishment of a realistic single exchange rate, unification of the nation's banking system into a central bank and a savings and loan institution. The program is very

broad in scope, and covers Uruguay's entire economic structure. What remains to be seen is whether or not

Uruguay is going to want to go along with the IMF, or play the role of another Brazil.

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BOOKS IN REVIEW....

SANTA CRUZ OF THE ETLA HILLS

By Helen Miller Bailey
Uni. of Florida Press
292 pp., \$6.00

The Indian village of Santa Cruz Etla lies about seventeen miles to the north of Oaxaca, Mexico, just below the tree-line in the hills that rise above the Inter-American Highway. The men cut wood in the sierra and prepare charcoal for the housewives of Oaxaca, or grow corn and beans on the ridges along which the dwellings of the village's thirty families are deployed. The women make tortillas, tend the houseyards, and care for the *animalitos*. The children, when they can be spared for work, attend school in a twenty-nine year-old building with real glass windows that are only six years old. This book is about the people who live in Santa Cruz Etla, but it is also about the school and the part it may have played in realizing an old man's dream.

To Don Amado, the village sage, the destiny of Santa Cruz Etla was to "send on another Benito Juárez," the full-blooded Indian president of Mexico who was born in the mountains of Oaxaca State in 1806. Although no one of Juárez' stature has as yet emerged from Santa Cruz Etla, Dr. Helen Miller Bailey concludes

that most of the young men and women trained in the village school are helping to do what the reform president himself wanted to do—raise the level of living of the entire nation. The conclusion does not come easily, and the reader is led up to it through a minute review of Dr. Bailey's six visits to the village during the period 1934-1954.

The reader is introduced not only to the former schoolchildren, but also to Rosita, the pretty young schoolteacher, who brought the joy of learning to Santa Cruz Etla and became a legend to plague all succeeding teachers; to Don Bartolo, the illiterate municipal president, whose hangovers sometimes went under the name of malaria; to Doña Patrocina, the *curandera*, whose herbs perversely failed to heal her own ailing grandchild; and to virtually every other inhabitant of the village over two decades. The gallery of former students included Nico, the prize scholar, who had to put aside his books but became the best farmer in Santa Cruz Etla; Chabella, a model child who became a model wife and mother; Margarita, who left the village and appeared headed for a life of service in nursing; puckish Crescencio, who joined the army and rode guard on the freight trains along the blue Pacific; and many others, living and dead. The solidity, if not the bril-

liance, of their contributions finally persuades the author that there are compensations for the disappearance of old ways, even if all change is not progress.

The readability of this book is unfortunately marred by loose organization and a lack of selectivity. There are also numerous errors in Spanish, which raise a question as to exactly how well the author managed to penetrate the language barrier. In spite of these shortcomings, *Santa Cruz of the Etla Hills* is a pleasant, nontechnical introduction to life in the highlands of Mexico and to the problems of rural education.

Donald J. Alderson

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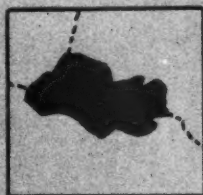
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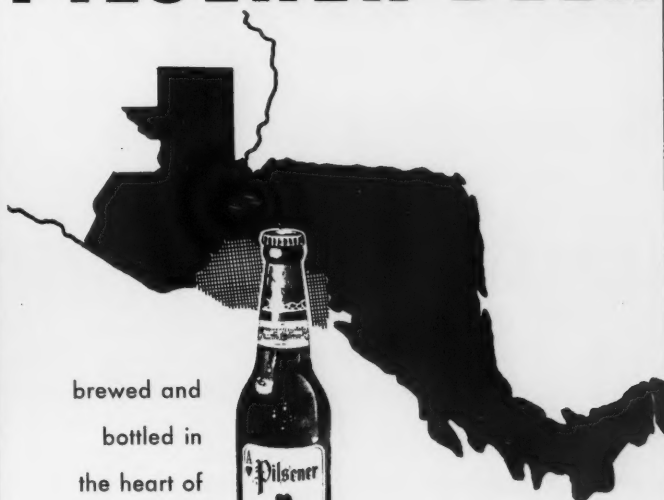
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